United Nations S/2000/395

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 May 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 4 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 2 May 2000 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning an act of aggression committed on 25 April 2000. A group of villages in northern Iraq was the target of an attack by United States and British aircraft which resulted in the death of an Iraqi citizen and damage to civilian property.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 4 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that, at 1045 hours on 25 April 2000, United States and British aircraft, in a perfidious act of aggression, attacked civilian areas in Dohuk, Irbil and Ninawa Governorates. Sixteen armed aerial sorties were flown from Turkish airspace, targeting the villages of Arbid and Abu Fishkah and the Idan petrol station (40 kilometres south of Ninawa Governorate). The aircraft dropped 500-pound bombs in the attacks, which resulted in the death of an Iraqi citizen, Tahsin Husayn Muhammad, and the destruction of two civilian motor vehicles and damage to other civilian property.

This act of aggression by the United States and the United Kingdom against unarmed civilian areas, causing the death of a civilian and damage to civilian personal property, is only the latest in an unbroken series of unjustifiable attacks against Iraq and its people. At the same time, it gives the lie to the fraudulent assertions of the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom to the effect that their aircraft do not target Iraqi civilians and their personal property. It also confirms the persistence of those Governments in their deliberate effort to inflict harm on the people of Iraq and perpetrate the foulest crimes upon them.

The Government of Iraq, noting that the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom bear full international responsibility for their acts of aggression and the resulting injury and damage, reserves in full its inalienable right, guaranteed by the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the custom of nations, to take the measures necessary to defend the inviolability and sovereignty of Iraq's territory and the security of its people, and demands compensation for all the losses that it has sustained in human, material and moral terms as a result of those acts, in accordance with the principle of international liability.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq